

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16799

USDOC FOR BEWT/OD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BGEN, CASC, UR
SUBJECT: COOPER INDUSTRIES REDUCES ITS PRESENCE IN
MOSCOW

1. COOPER INDUSTRIES SENIOR MOSCOW REP, DONALD
HARNSBERGER, TOLD COMATT JULY 11 THAT AS FROM JUNE 20
HE HAS TAKEN UP PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN LONDON WITH HIS
FAMILY AND WILL NO LONGER MAN FIRM'S ACCREDITED OFFICE
IN MOSCOW ON PERMANENT BASIS. HARNSBERGER SAID REASONS
FOR SHIFT WERE:

-- SLACK BUSINESS;

-- UNFULFILLMENT BY SOVIETS OF THEIR LONG-TERM
PROMISES OF OFFICE SPACE AND APARTMENT LIVING QUARTERS
FOR COOPER INDUSTRIES DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE;

-- GENERAL CLIMATE CREATED BY CRAWFORD ARREST.

HARNSBERGER SAID THAT IT WAS HARD TO KEEP "EVERYONE
TERRIBLY ENTHUSIASTIC" ABOUT CONTINUING COMMERCIAL
OPERATIONS IN USSR JUST NOW. HARNSBERGER WILL RETAIN
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TITLE OF SENIOR ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE FOR COOPER
INDUSTRIES IN MOSCOW AND TRAVEL IN REGULARLY TO CONDUCT
FIRM'S AFFAIRS.

2. HARNSBERGER INTRODUCED MR. W. H. ALLEN LAMBERT A
CANADIAN CITIZEN AND USSR PROJECT MANAGER FOR COBER-
ROW LTD. (CONSORTIUM OF COOPER-BESSEMER, ROLLS

ROYCE AND WILLIAMS BROTHERS), AS HIS SORT OF STAND IN FOR COOPER INDUSTRIES. HARNSBERGER SAID THAT LAMBERT WOULD WORK OUT OF HIS OLD OFFICE IN PULLMAN'S MOSCOW HEADQUARTERS. COOPER INDUSTRIES JUDGED, ACCORDING TO HARNSBERGER, THAT BY NAMING A CANADIAN TO COVER ITS LOCAL AFFAIRS ON A MORE OR LESS REGULAR BASIS CHANCES OF SOMETHING HAPPENING TO HIM A LA CRAWFORD WOULD BE REDUCED SINCE HE WOULD BE SOMEWHAT "OUT OF CROSSFIRE" IN US/USSR RELATIONS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE HAD KNOWN THAT COOPER INDUSTRIES HAD BEEN CONSIDERING LOWERING ITS PRESENCE IN MOSCOW FOR SOME TIME, HARNSBERGER SAID THAT CRAWFORD ARREST HAD DONE QUITE A BIT TO CRYSTALLIZE FIRM'S DECISION. WITH CITIBANK'S MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVE POSITION STILL UNFILLED, COOPER INDUSTRIES' ACTION BRINGS TO TWO NUMBER OF FIRMS WITH STAFF MORE OR LESS PERMANENTLY REDUCED IN MOSCOW. KGB ACTION AGAINST COOPER INDUSTRIES' DONALD CANNON IN DECEMBER (1977)/JANUARY(1978) MAY ALSO HAVE MADE COOPER INDUSTRIES MORE SENSITIVE THAN OTHER FIRMS TO CRAWFORD ARREST. MATLOCK

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